

## **AmeriCorps Member Position Description Youth Development Specialist**

The Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) is partnering with the Iowa AmeriCorps 4-H Outreach Program to have an AmeriCorps member coordinate the activities that promote lived expertise in state government and assist with additional youth development initiatives within DHR. The member will provide 300 hours of service prior to September 1, 2021. **Interested candidates should send a resume to Kayla Powell, Department of Human Rights, 321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Lucas State Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Des Moines, IA 50319, or e-mail to [kayla.powell@iowa.gov](mailto:kayla.powell@iowa.gov).**

Applicants with lived experience in child welfare and/or juvenile justice are strongly encouraged to apply.

The starting date for the members will be after May 1<sup>st</sup> and before June 1st, 2021.

**POSITION SUMMARY:** A minimum-time (300 hours) AmeriCorps member will empower lived experience, specifically lived experience in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems and strengthen positive youth development programs. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with DHR and youth/young adults to promote youth voice and advance authentic youth engagement in state government. The office location for the successful candidate will be in the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Des Moines, IA. Currently, DHR is working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** DHR needs AmeriCorps members to serve as Youth Development Specialists to complete duties that include:

- Assist with the development and implementation of the Youth Justice Council, a subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, composed of youth and young adults with lived experience in juvenile justice who are passionate about making changes to better this system
- Collaborate on the development and implementation of the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Ambassadors, a cohort of youth with foster care experience to help advise, strengthen and partner on the NYTD survey and communication with stakeholders
- Assist with development of school-based Youth Action Squads, a program for youth leaders to develop action plans on human rights issues within their local schools/communities
- Assist with coordinating DHR youth development events and creating content for the Iowa Youth Resources website, the NYTD website and NYTD social media channels
- Develop and implement strategies to advance youth engagement in DHR Councils, including the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development, Iowa Taskforce for Young Women, Disproportionate Minority Contact, and others.
- Assist with the leadership academy for youth with developmental disabilities, including assisting with recruiting and facilitating parts of the academy
- Advise on the development of a mentoring component for the Iowa Talent Bank for youth applying to be on state councils/boards
- Collaborate on the development of positive youth development and authentic youth engagement trainings for DHR staff and other state agency staff
- Coordinate with the other DHR youth initiatives and network with local youth councils, community, and state partners.
- Involve youth participants in AmeriCorps sponsored service projects.
- Provide technical assistance and training to youth and adults related to youth development. Examples of topics covered include: youth leadership, adult-youth partnerships, service learning, service project development, transitioning youth from juvenile court and foster care, and working with diverse and underrepresented youth.
- Assist in youth-related research

**MINIMUM EDUCATION:** High school diploma (or equivalent)

**SALARY and BENEFITS:** The part-time AmeriCorps member will receive a **MODEST LIVING STIPEND of \$2,520 and upon completion of 300 hours of service qualify for a \$1,311 educational award.** Student loan forbearance is allowed during the term of service. This AmeriCorps position also provides valuable leadership and problem-solving skills that all employers seek.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Demonstrated ability to interact effectively and work with youth/young adults and diverse populations;
- Computer proficiency in Google Suite: Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Gmail, along with Office products (Word and Excel).
- Flexibility and the ability to manage multiple projects at once;
- Self-motivated and able to work independently and remotely as well as in a team environment;
- Willingness to learn new skills, set goals and have good organizational skills;
- Demonstrated public speaking ability and excellent communications skills, both oral and written;
- Willingness to have a flexible schedule and have the capacity to travel, including nights and weekends
- Interest in working with youth/young adults, community groups, and state agencies to promote youth development and youth engagement.